A balloon for you!

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Marvel

23rd Sept. '94
No 181 80p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

ALL NEW!

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

EXTRA PAGES INSIDE!

CE
The Old Chapel, Church Hill,
Castor, Peterborough,
PE5 7AU.
Tel. 0733 380084.

Not suitable for children under three years old.

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Stories ✿ Alphabet Mural ✿ Competitions!

ALL ABO

Notice Board!

Peep! Peep! There are so many different things to do and see when you travel on the Island of Sodor! In this issue, Thomas and Percy have very different, but equally exciting stories to tell us! Find out how Harold can help Thomas and his driver and if Percy will discover if the abbey is really haunted! Peep! Peep!

Win a **Miniature Adventure Playset** on page 9!

Win a **Brio Train Set** on page 19!

Visit **Thorpe Park** for free on page 17!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS is published fortnightly by **MARVEL COMICS LTD**. Jim Galton, Chairman; Michael Z.Hobson; Managing Director; Paul Neary, Editorial Director; Alan O'Keefe, Group Editor; Andy Seddon, Editor; David Paul Boyle, Assistant Editor; Helen Nally, Art Director; Gary Gilbert, Designer; Julie Pickering & Mark Irvine, Production. Office of Publication: 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2R 3DX. All **THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS** material copyright © William Heinemann Limited. All television and merchandising rights licensed by William Heinemann Limited to Britt Allcroft (THOMAS) Ltd. exclusively worldwide. All rights reserved. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this publication with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the UK. Distributed by Marketforce (UK) Ltd., 247 Tottenham Court Road, LONDON W1P OAU. Tel. 071 261 5555. ISSN 0954-9390.

ABC AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS CONSUMER PRESS

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

OARD!

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20. "Percy's Spooky Story!"
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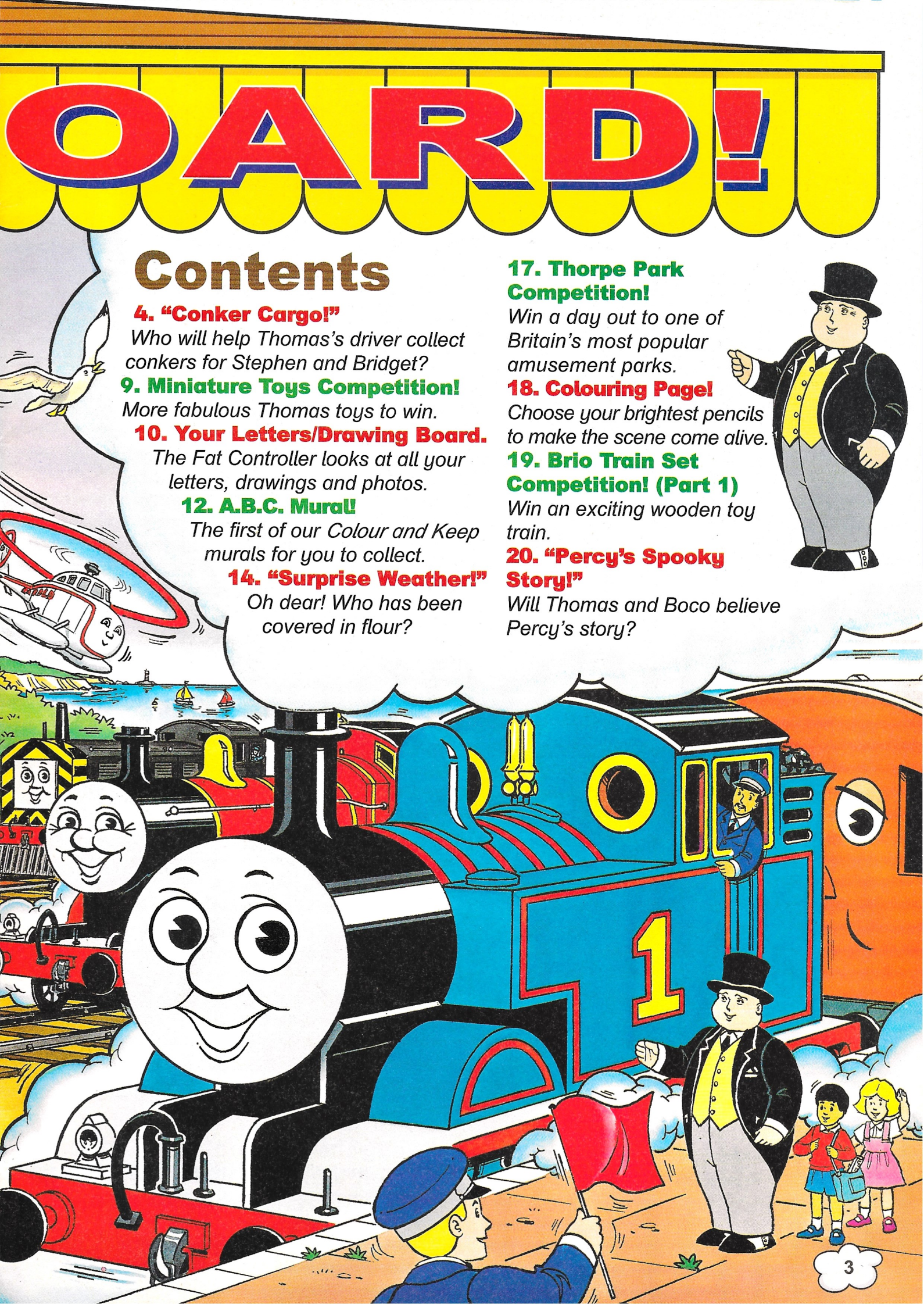
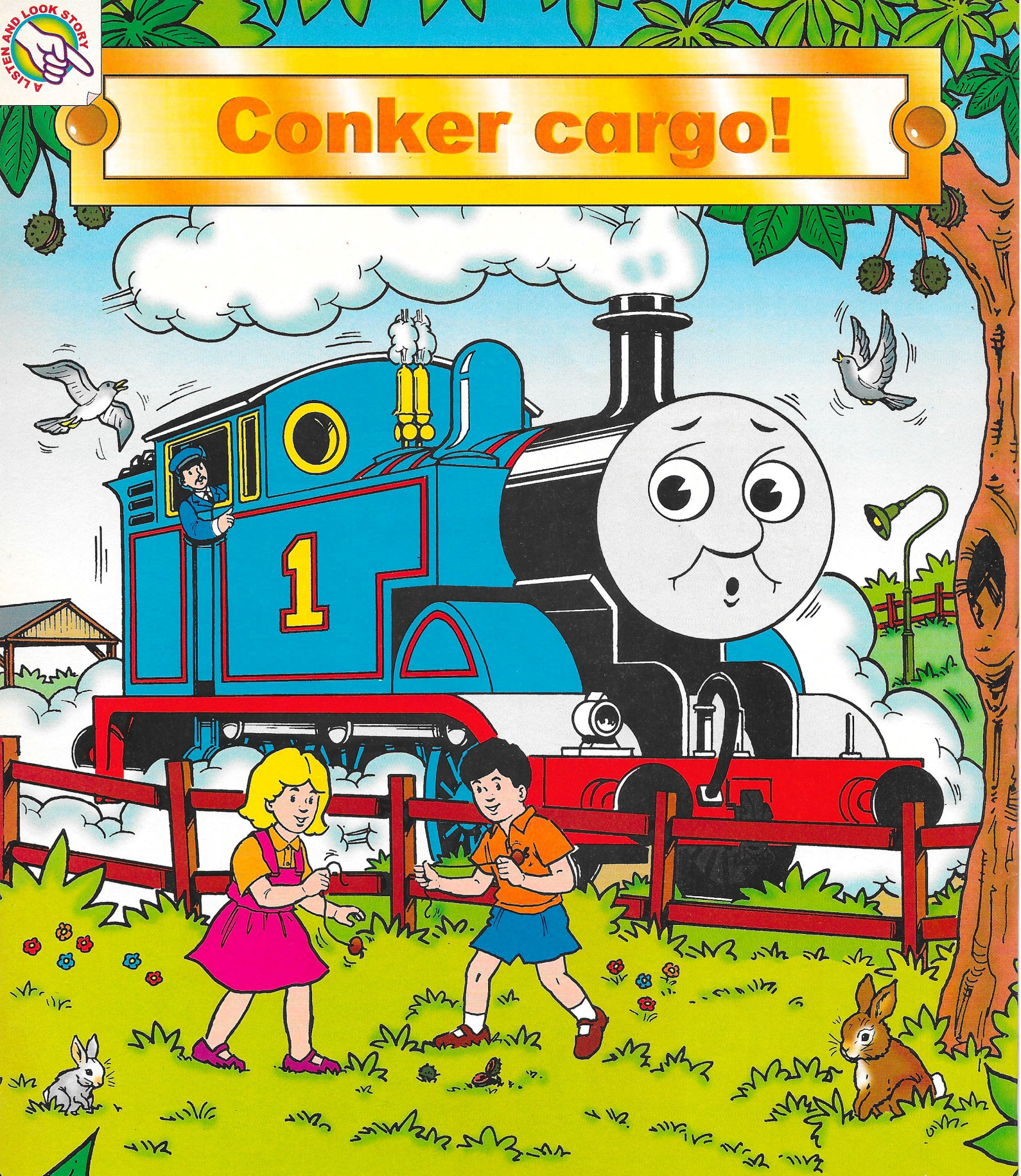


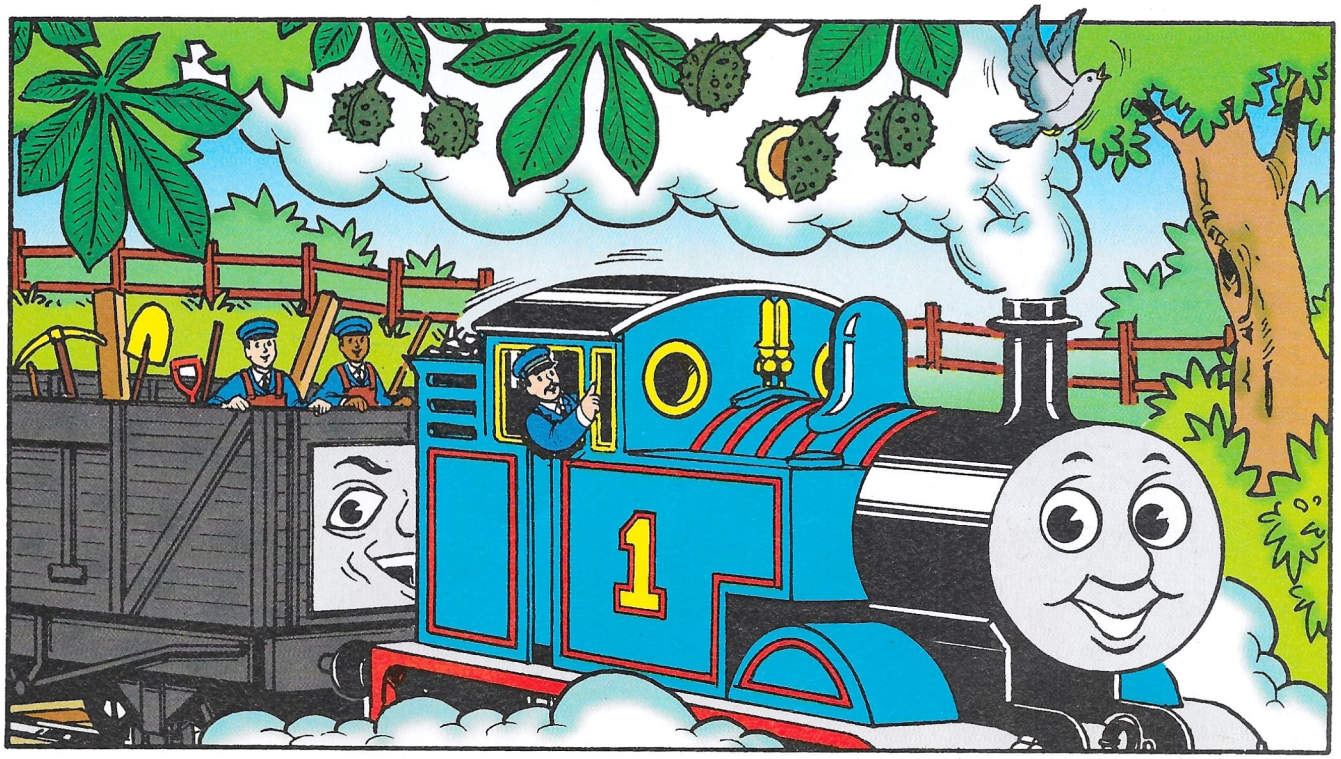
A LISTEN AND LOOK STORY

Conker cargo!



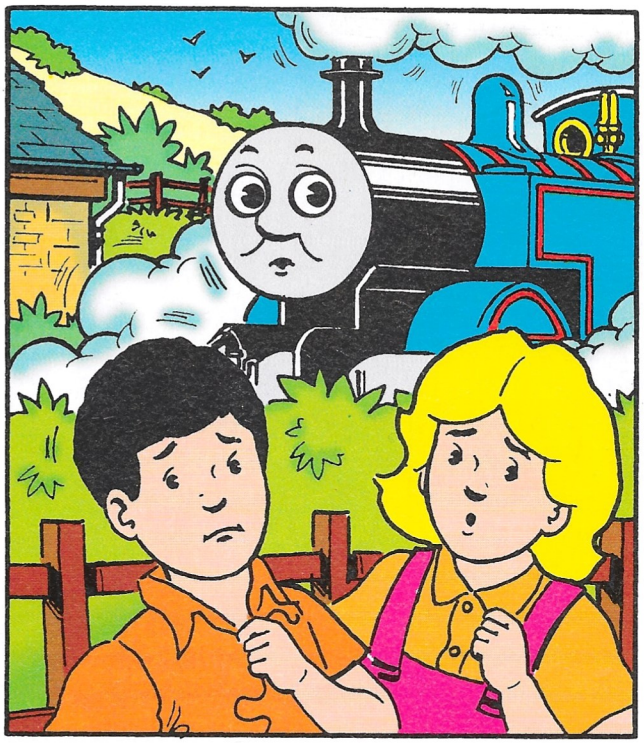
1. The Fat Controller's two grandchildren, Stephen and Bridget, were staying on the Island of Sodor. Thomas saw them playing a strange game.

2. "It's called conkers!" his driver explained. The children swung the conkers on strings and hit them together until eventually one broke.

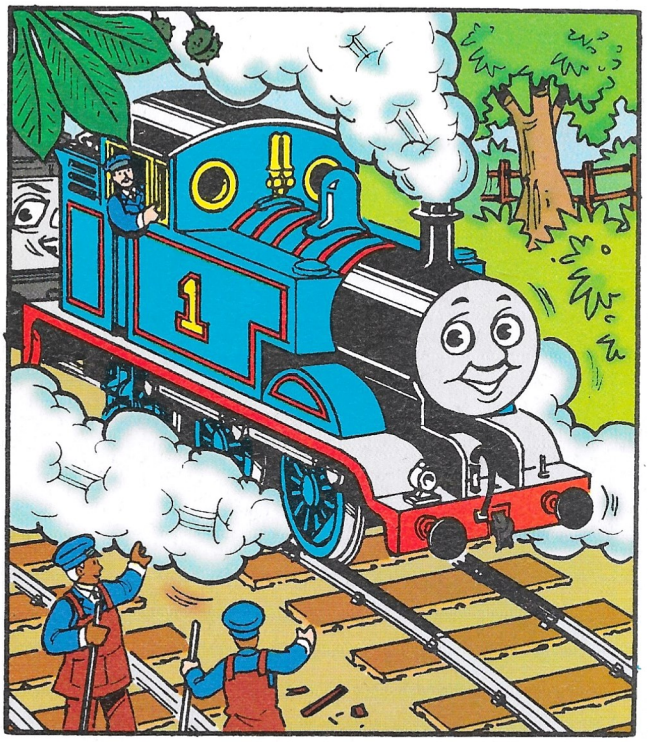


3. Thomas had to take some men and their supplies to a siding in the woods, to make repairs. All around, tall trees were overhanging the track.

4. "They're horse chestnut or conker trees!" said his driver. "The conkers are inside those spiky, green cases on the branches."

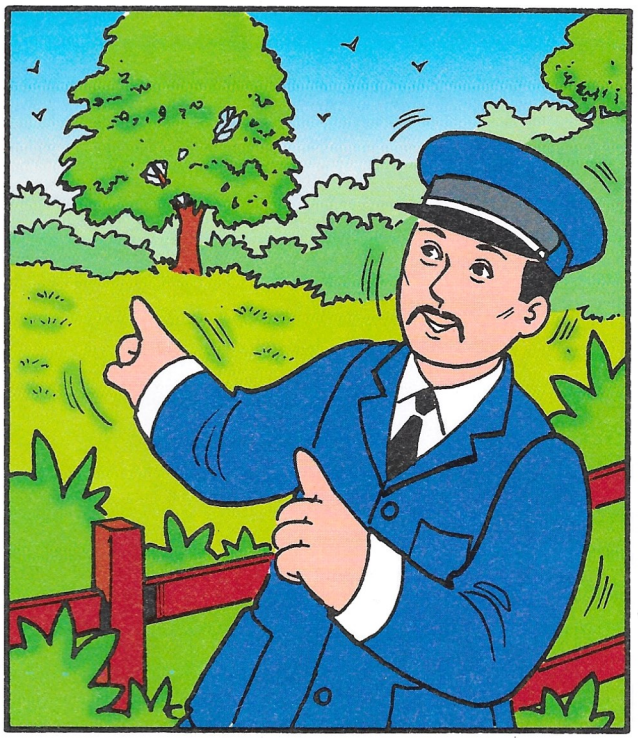


5. By the time Thomas got back to the Main Station yard, Stephen and Bridget had stopped playing. "We've no more conkers!" they said.



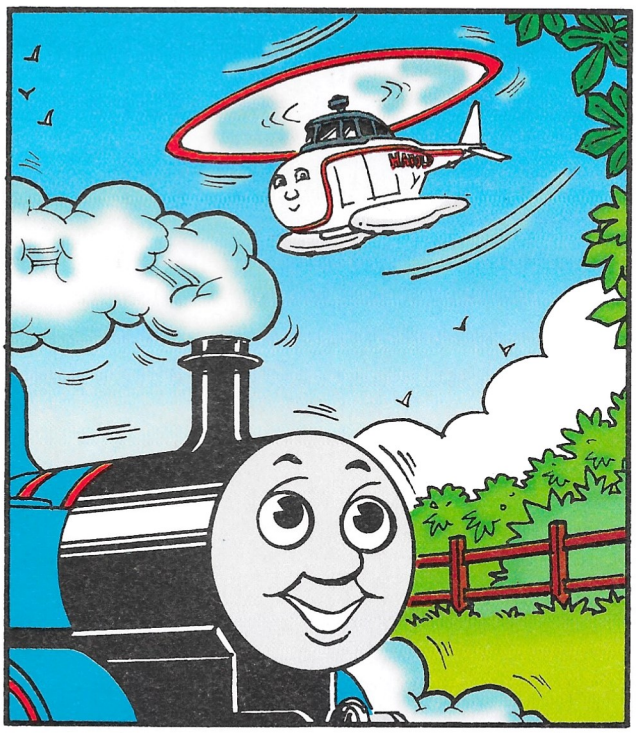
6. Later, Thomas collected the men from the siding. "You could pick conkers from these trees for the children!" he told his driver.

7. The driver climbed on to his cab while the workmen loaded their tools aboard the trucks. "I can't reach the conkers!" he called.

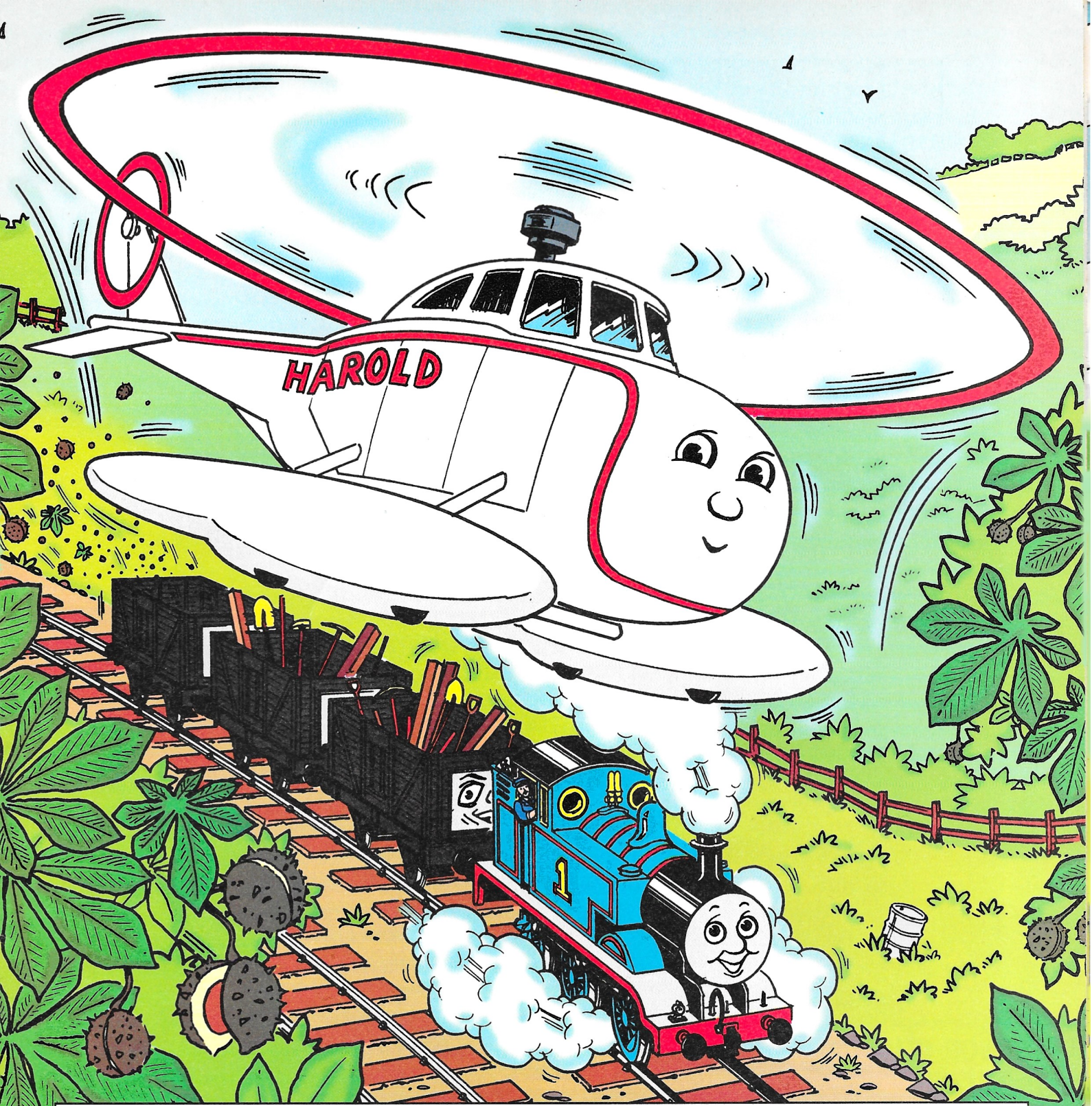


8. Then the driver spotted another horse chestnut tree in a field. "I'll go over and see if any conkers have fallen from it!" he told Thomas.

9. But the driver was chased by a goat. "We must get conkers somehow!" thought Thomas. Then Harold the Helicopter buzzed by.

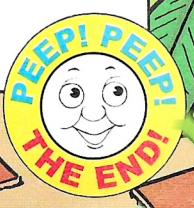


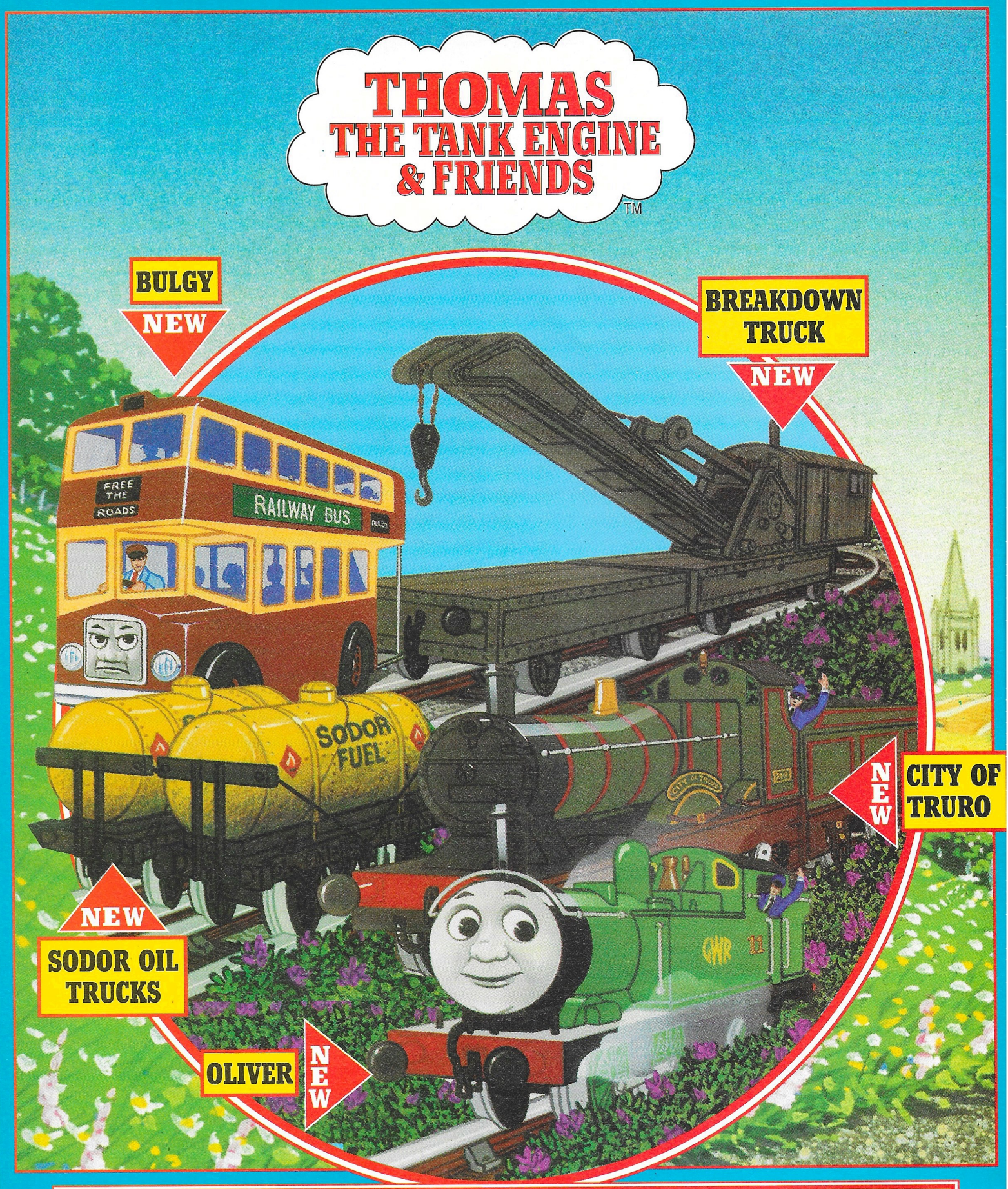
10. He was on his way back to the airfield. As Harold zoomed towards Thomas, his whirly blades made it feel very windy.



11. Thomas asked Harold to fly above the horse chestnut trees that overhung the siding. Thomas's last truck was empty and stood right underneath. "Keep back!" Thomas's driver warned the other men as Harold hovered. The wind from his blades blew down the conkers.

12. Lots fell into Thomas's trucks before Harold flew off. Everyone helped Thomas's driver to gather up all the conkers. Imagine Stephen and Bridget's delight when Thomas returned with his conker cargo. "It's all thanks to Harold's blades," said Thomas modestly.





The Thomas The Tank Engine & Friends Collectable Range is now available in your local Toy Store

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ERTL®

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Miniatures TO BE WON!

Part 2

12 1ST PRIZE WINNERS WILL RECEIVE A 6-PIECE MINIATURE SET!

12 2ND PRIZE WINNERS WILL RECEIVE A 4-PIECE SET!

48 3RD PRIZE WINNERS RECEIVE A MINI ADVENTURE SET!

HOW TO ENTER:

Choose your best crayons or pencils and colour the picture opposite! Then complete the entry form and send this page together with your token from the last issue, to: Thomas/ERTL Colouring Competition, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13/15 Arundel St., London. WC2R 3DX by October 7th 1994.

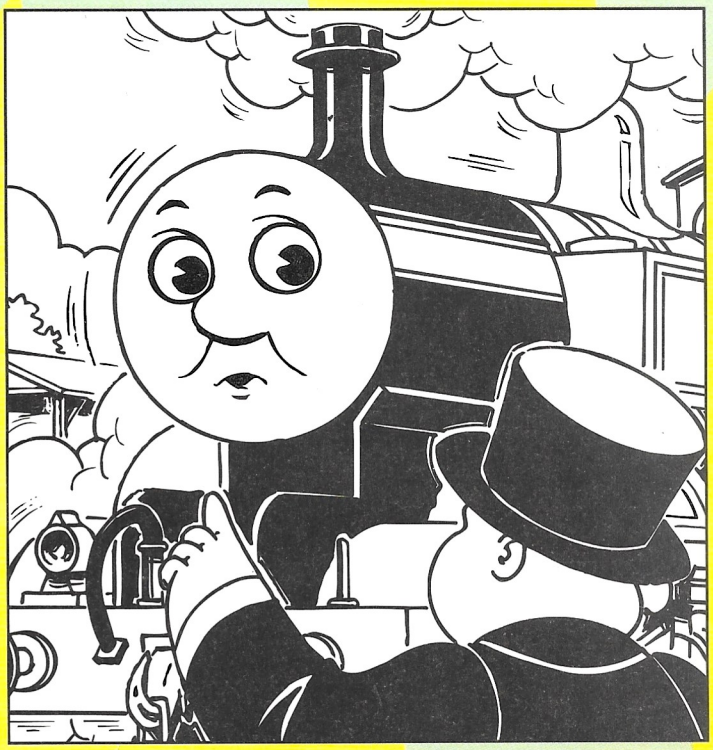
Name..... Age .....

Address .....

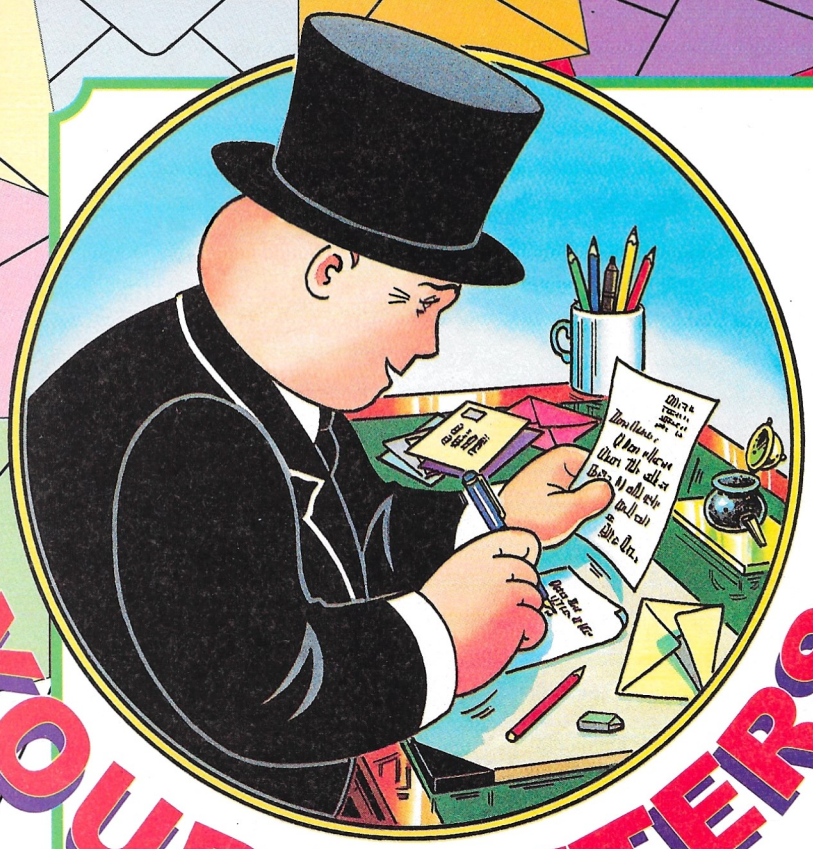
.....

.....

..... Post code .....



Rules: This competition is open to all readers other than employees of Marvel Comics Ltd. and ERTL (Europe) Ltd. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.



YOUR LETTERS

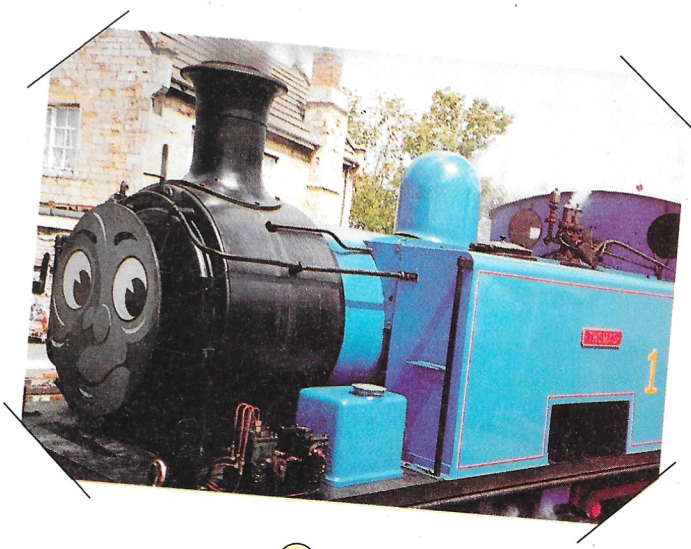
THOMAS GOES TO WORK!

Dear Fat Controller,
I like Thomas the best because he runs smooth and fast. Does he always pull Annie and Clarabel?
Love from **Iain Edward Pringle, aged 3.**

Thomas pulls Annie and Clarabel on his own branch line, but he can also pull trucks and other special coaches if I have a special task for him to complete!

PHOTO STOP!

Dear Fat Controller,
This is the picture of Thomas that I took at the Neane Valley Railway. I had a lovely day. I sat by the station and watched Thomas steam up and down the line with his coaches!
Love from **Christopher James Gatenby, aged 2.**



The sender of any letter that is printed as our STAR LETTER will win one of these Thomas pre-school toys!

STAR LETTER!

TWINS!

Dear Fat Controller,
Our twin sisters, Louise and Sarah are very hard to tell apart. How can you tell the difference between Bill and Ben? Has it ever caused any problems?
Love from **Nicky Cowen, aged 9.**

Bill and Ben are almost identical in every way, but we can tell them apart by their nameplates so it has never really caused any problems.

SADDLE-TANK ENGINES!

Dear Fat Controller,
How many saddle-tank engines have you got on your railway?
Love **Anthony Biagioni, aged 6.**

There are three Saddle-tank engines on my railway! One is called Percy and there are two twin engines called Bill and Ben!

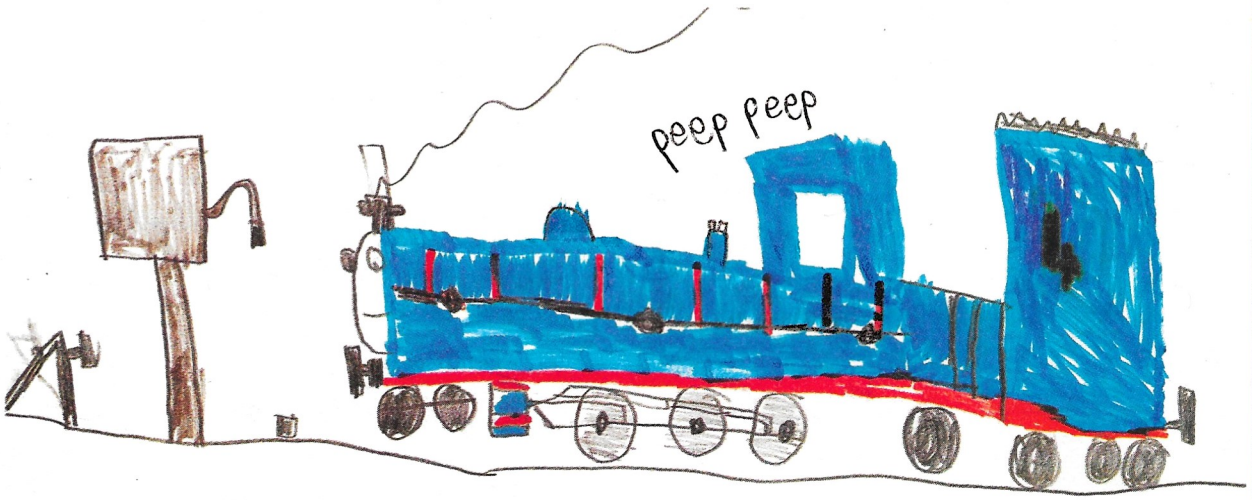
BIRTHDAYS!

Birthday greetings go out to...
Richard Boyes, Gerry Booth, Micky Mc Comb, Alexander Timothy Reed, Graham Ruthren, Mario Seppe, Scott Black, Luke Horsfall, Matthew Douglas, Thomas Thorpe, Michael Wiseman, William Clark, Louise Humphries, Karl Nichols, Christopher Hawkes, Austin Russell Lehrer and Thomas Jones.

Drawing Board!

Thank you for sending your drawings and pictures to my gallery! Has your drawing been printed?

Bertie the Bus has been painted in his shiny red colours by **Daniel Sherry** from Hartlepool (aged 7).

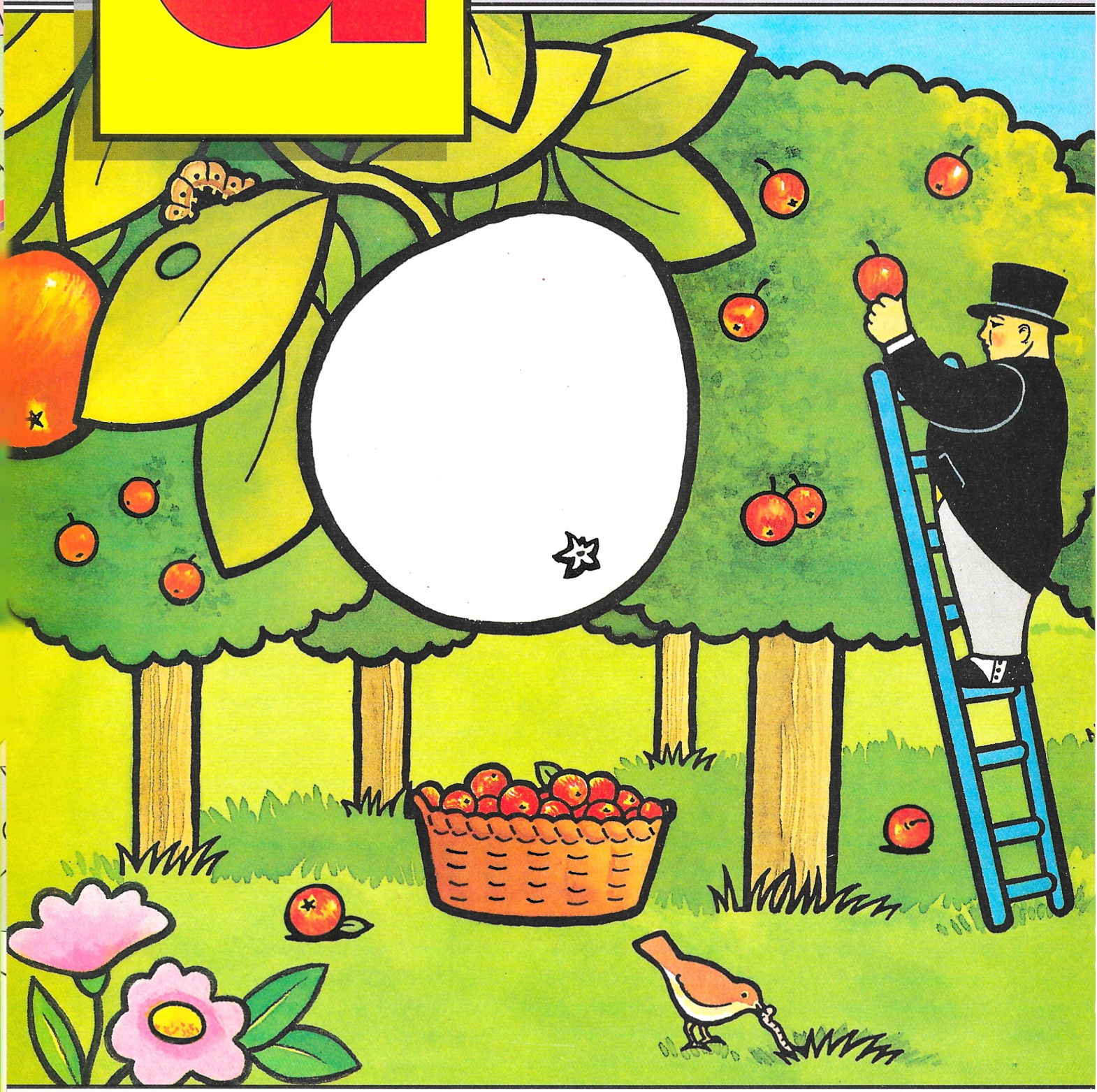


Congratulations go out to **Michael Bottomley** who has drawn this picture of Gordon the Express while he stops at the water-tank!

You can send your drawings to me at: The Fat Controller's Drawing Board, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel St., London WC2R 3DX.

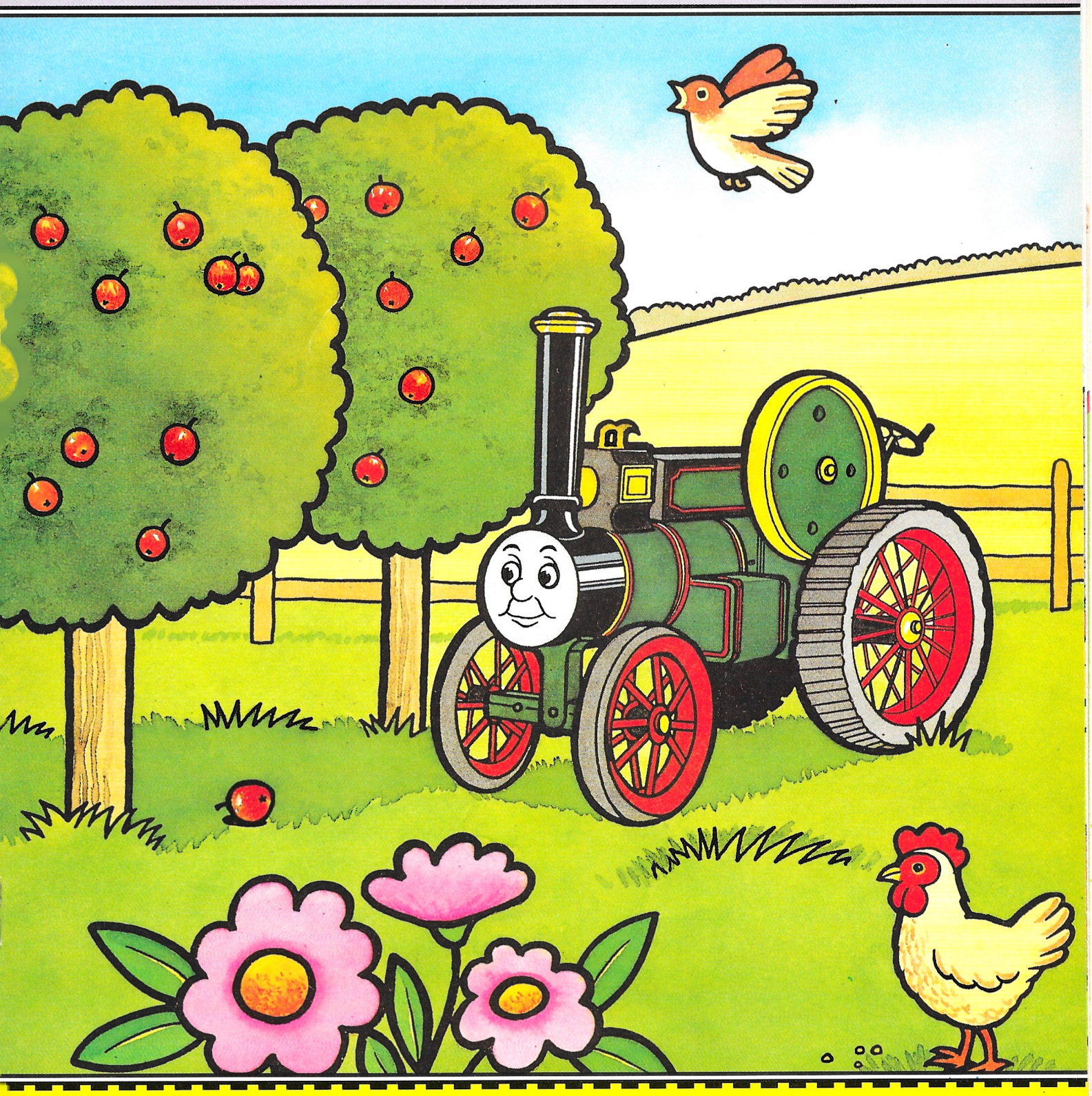
CUT OUT AND KEEP

a is for



What is the Fat Controller doing?
Which engine can you see?
How many apples have fallen on the grass?
What colour are the flowers?

How many birds can
Are they all the same
Point to the caterpillar
Colour in the apple!



ou see?
sort of birds?
!

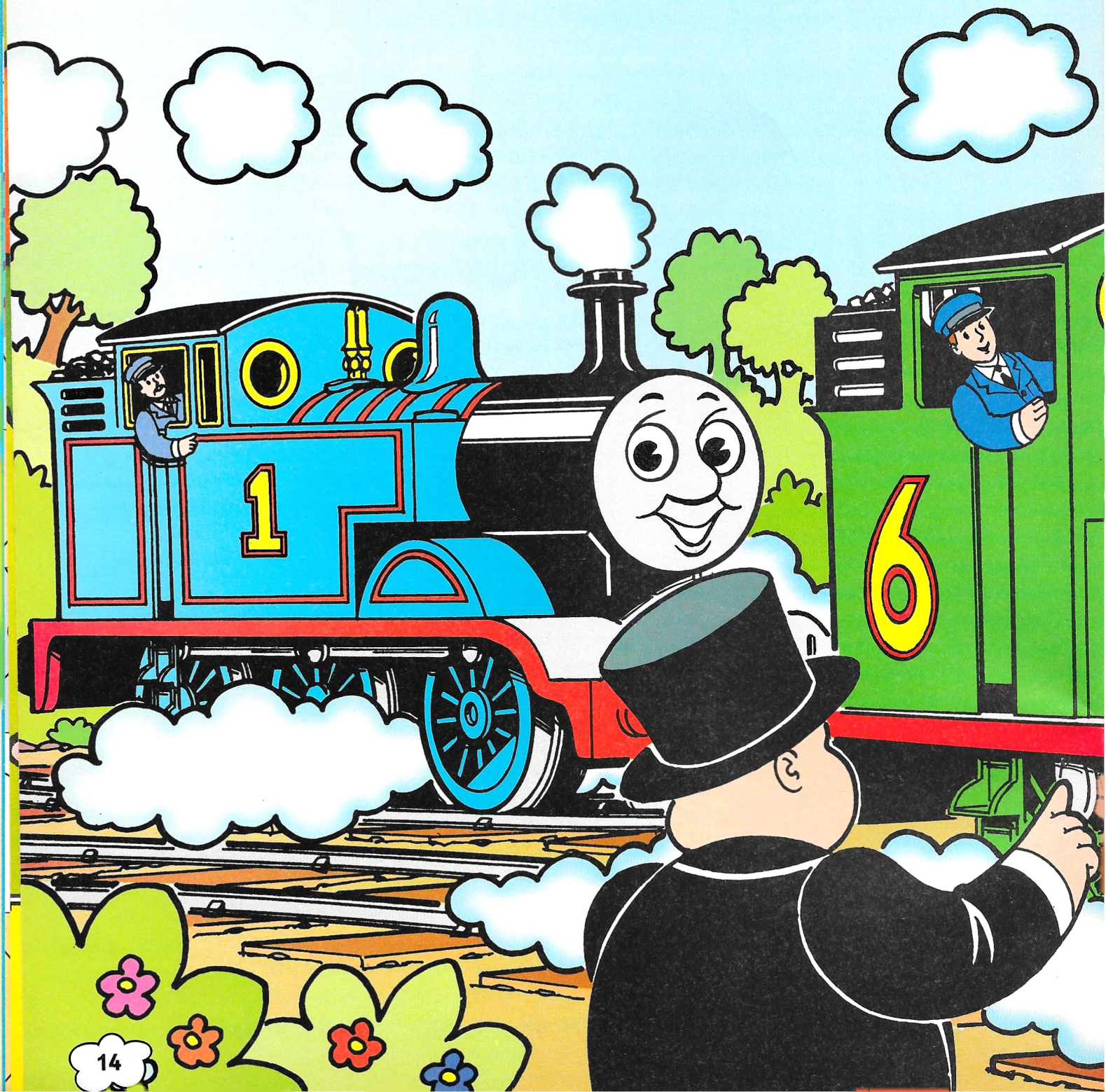
This centrespread should be cut out as it forms part of a continuous scene for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom.

Surprise weather!

Thomas shivered as he waited to take a passenger train on his branch line, one cold morning.

"The sooner I start, the sooner I'll get warm!" he said.

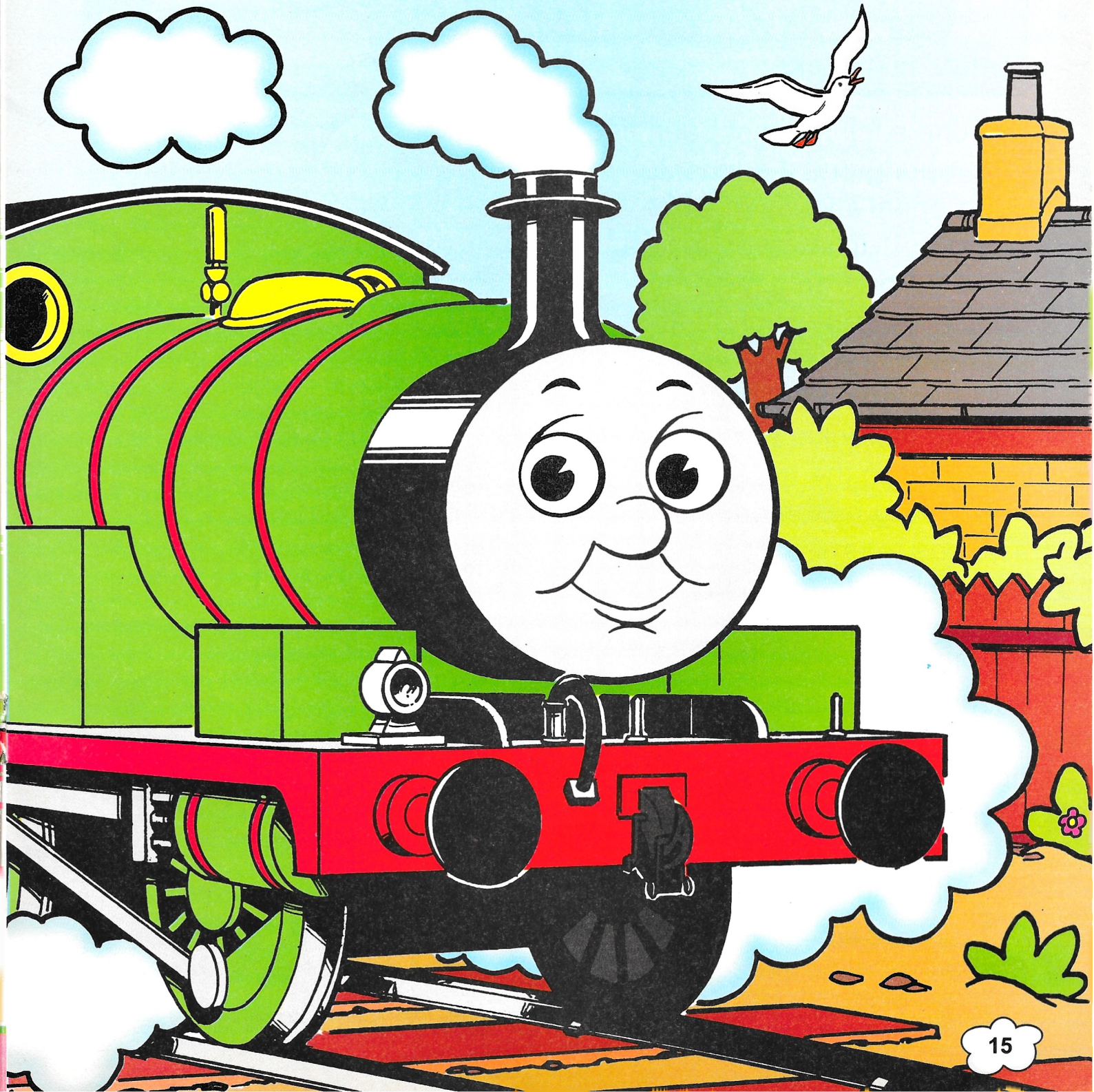
"Brrr! It's cold enough to snow!" replied Percy.

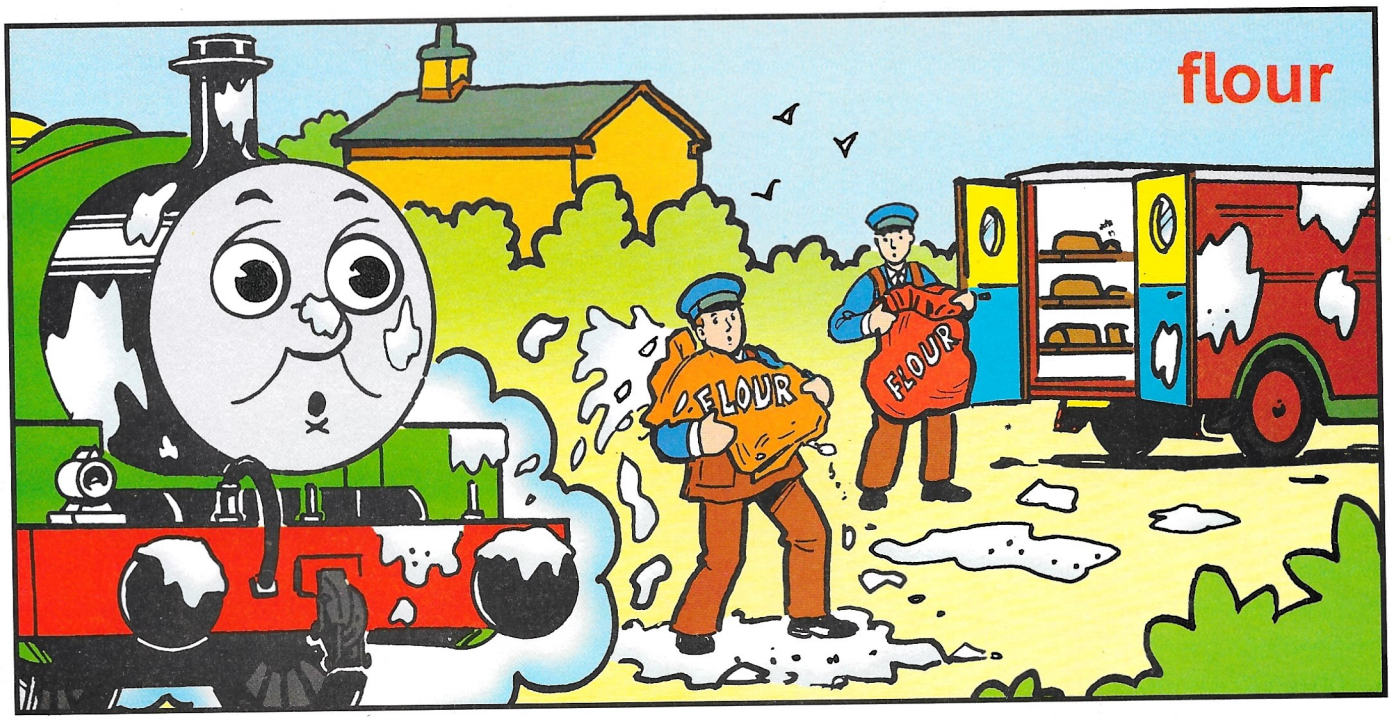


A chilly wind whistled around his buffers.

"Don't be silly, Percy!" laughed Thomas, puffing out of the yard at last. "It's not winter yet! You won't get snow at this time of year!"

Percy was very pleased when the Fat Controller sent him to fetch **flour** from a mill. Percy steamed along and soon felt quite warm. Later, he carried the **flour** back to the Main Station yard where the baker was waiting. Two railway workers began to unload the **flour** sacks and take them to the baker's van.





But one sack had not been tied up properly and it suddenly burst open! Clouds of white, dusty **flour** blew everywhere. It settled on Percy, who spluttered and coughed. It landed on the workmen's clothes and drifted across the yard to the baker's van. More **flour** fell on the track.

The very next moment, Thomas returned from his branch line. Imagine his surprise when he saw the white scene in the yard.

"Smoke and fire!" he gasped. "It has snowed here, after all!"

"I told you, didn't I?" teased Percy.

"That's not snow, it's **flour**!" laughed Thomas's driver when the baker told him what had happened.

"It was just an accident!" explained the baker. "I still have all the **flour** I need!"

"At least **flour** isn't cold, like real snow!" smiled Percy.

"True!" laughed Thomas. "But it really had me fooled for a moment!"

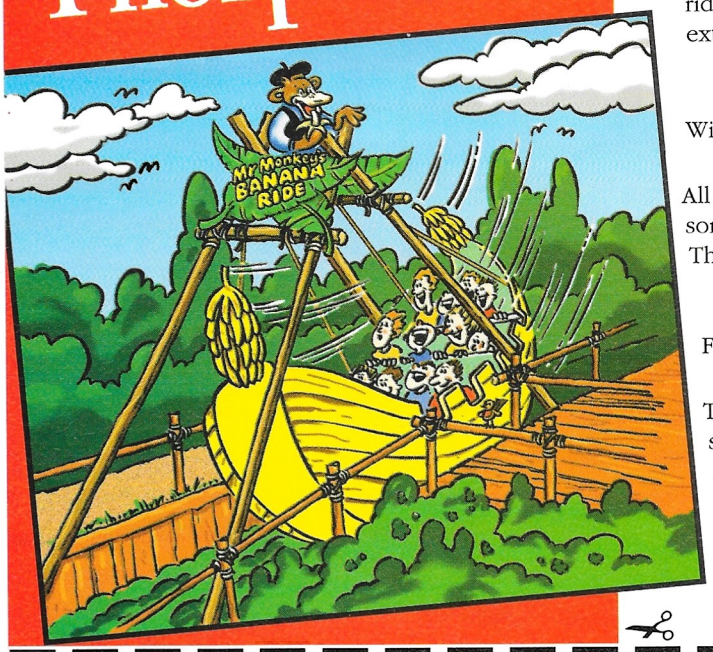
What have you learned?

How many times did the word **flour** appear in the story?
What do you use **flour** for?
Now practise writing the word **flour**!

f l o u r

WIN A DAY AT...

THE GREAT Thorpe Park



'Spot The Difference'

1994 is the International Year of The Family. To celebrate we've arranged this easy competition to win tickets to Britain's most popular family leisure park.

Thorpe Park, in Surrey, has over a million visitors a year and is a great favourite with Princess Diana and her sons, Prince William and Prince Harry.

New at Thorpe Park for 1994 is the fabulous £2.5 million Ranger County, home to the big cuddly Thorpe Park Rangers. A brilliant new area with two great new family rides, the spectacular Chief Rangers Carousel with the extraordinary spinning Mr Elephant, and the swinging Mr Monkey's Banana Ride!

Plus if you dare visit the brand new spooky Wicked Witches Haunt, a chilling new dark ride which will make your spine tingle!

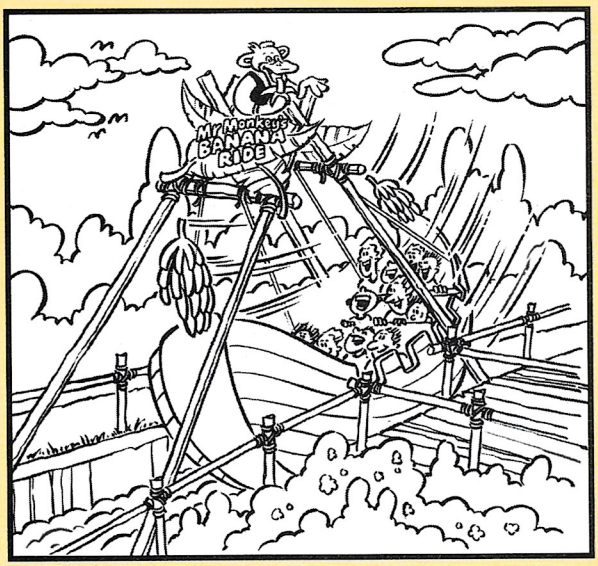
All this plus 100 thrilling rides and attractions some wet, some dry ...fast and slow. Loggers Leap, Depth Charge, Thunder River always a splash hit! The Flying Fish, Tea Cup Ride and Calgary Stampede for more thrills. Viking Rowers, Hudson River Rafters, a paddle in Fantasy Reef, and a trip on the Canada Creek Railway to see the animals at Thorpe Farm.

There's so much to do. Live shows and entertainment, souvenir shops and an excellent choice of restaurants including Burger King and Pizza Hut...

hurry and enter!

20 FAMILY TICKETS TO BE WON!

THE GREAT Thorpe Park



'Spot The Difference'

Circle any 6 differences between the two pictures and you could win a family ticket for four persons for a brilliant day out at Thorpe Park.

Send this entry form to:

THOMAS THE TANK/THORPE PARK COMPETITION, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2 3DX

To arrive by September 29th, 1994.
Competition will be judged September 30th.

COMPETITION RULES: Competitions are not open to employees of Thorpe Park, Marvel Comics, nor anyone connected with the organisation of the competition. Judges' decision is final and no correspondence can be entered into. No cash alternative is available. Winners will be notified by post.

Name: _____

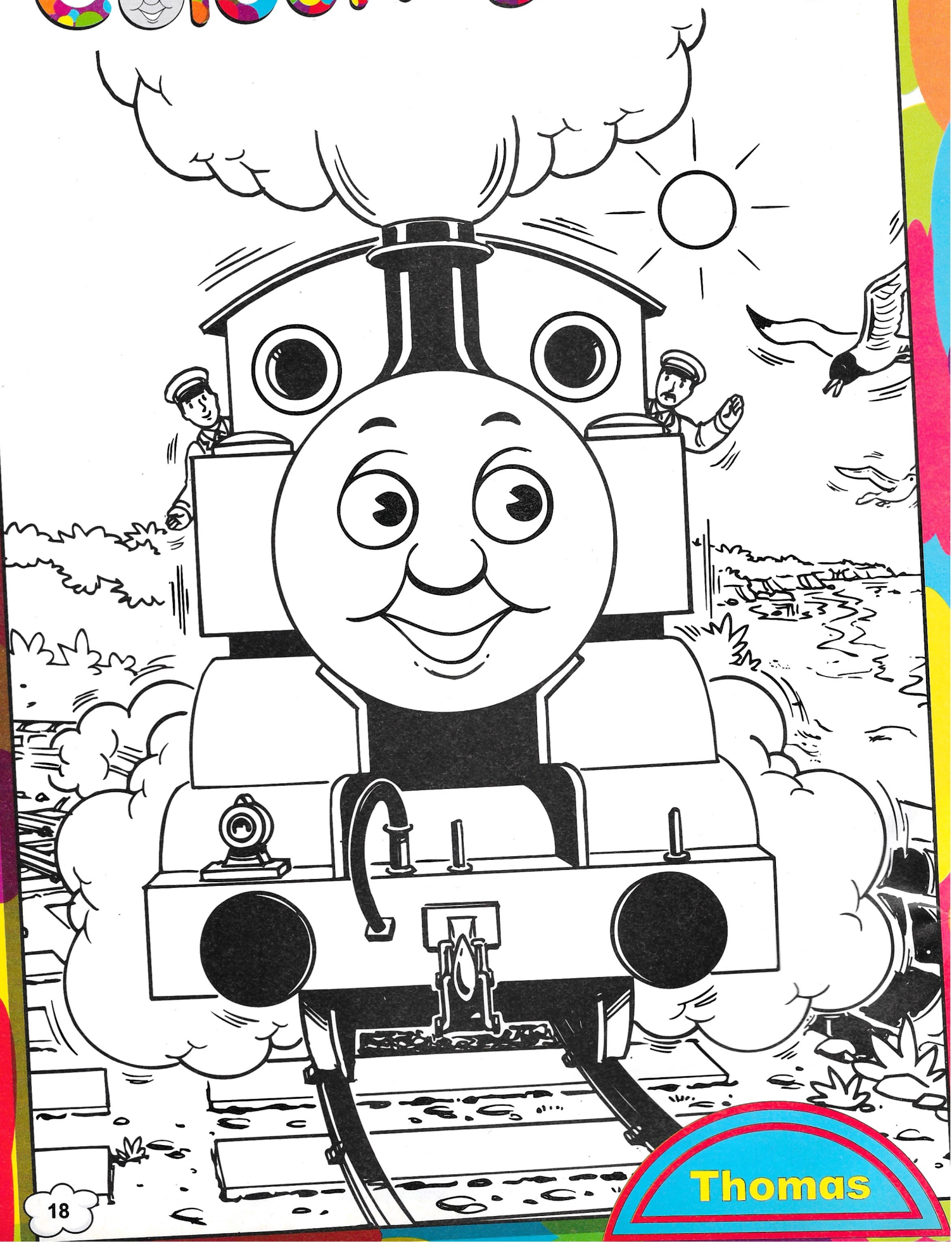
Address: _____

_____

Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____ Age: _____

Colouring time!

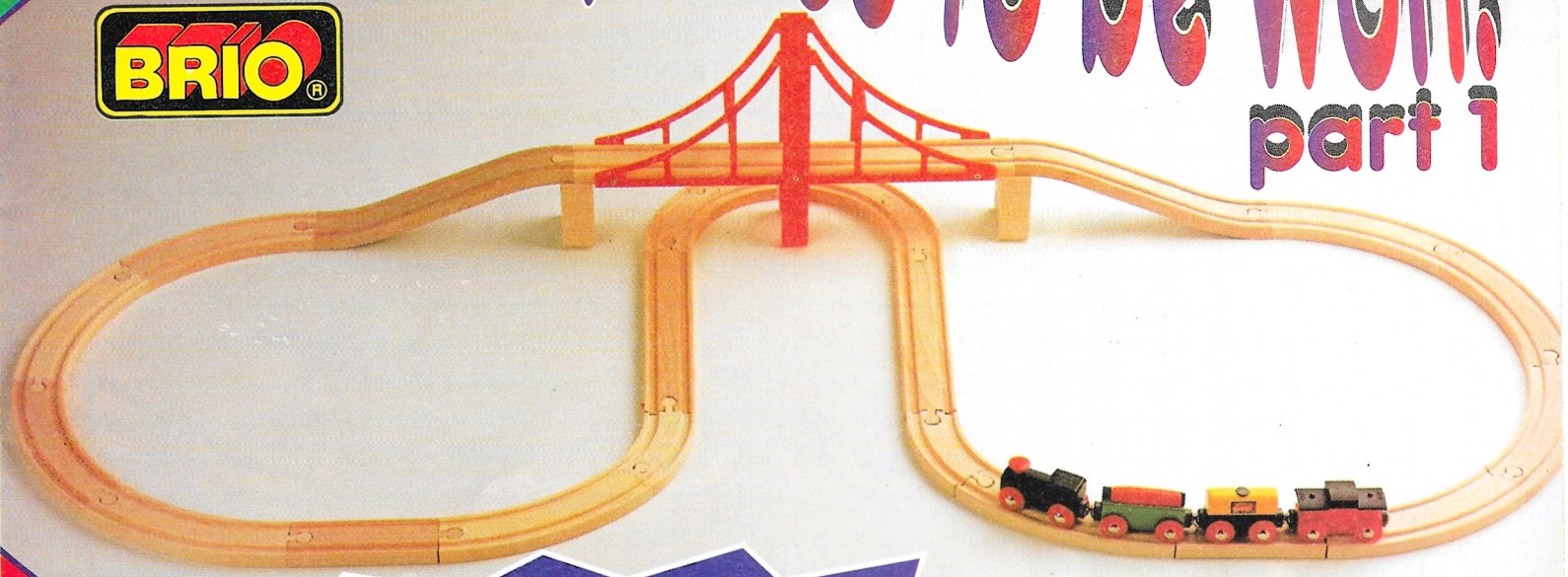


TOKEN 1

10 super prizes to be won!

part 1

BRIO®



Railway Set!
This complete ready-to-play **Wooden Train Set** includes an engine with 3 wagons and 1 load, 2 ascending tracks, 2 supports and 1 suspension bridge (worth £37.25)!

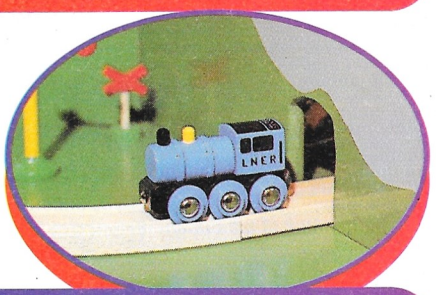
L.M.S. Train, complete with coal truck (worth £13.25).

Each prize winner will receive the above Wooden Railway Set, an L.M.S. Train, a G.W.R. Train, and an L.N.E.R Train. Brio, who are leaders in wooden toys, have a whole host of exciting Railway Sets and accessories, all made from top quality materials and great fun to play with!

G.W.R. Train, complete with coal truck (worth £9.95).

How to enter:

For your chance to win one of these fabulous prizes, simply keep the token at the top of this page in a safe place, then send it along with your competition entry form from our very next issue!

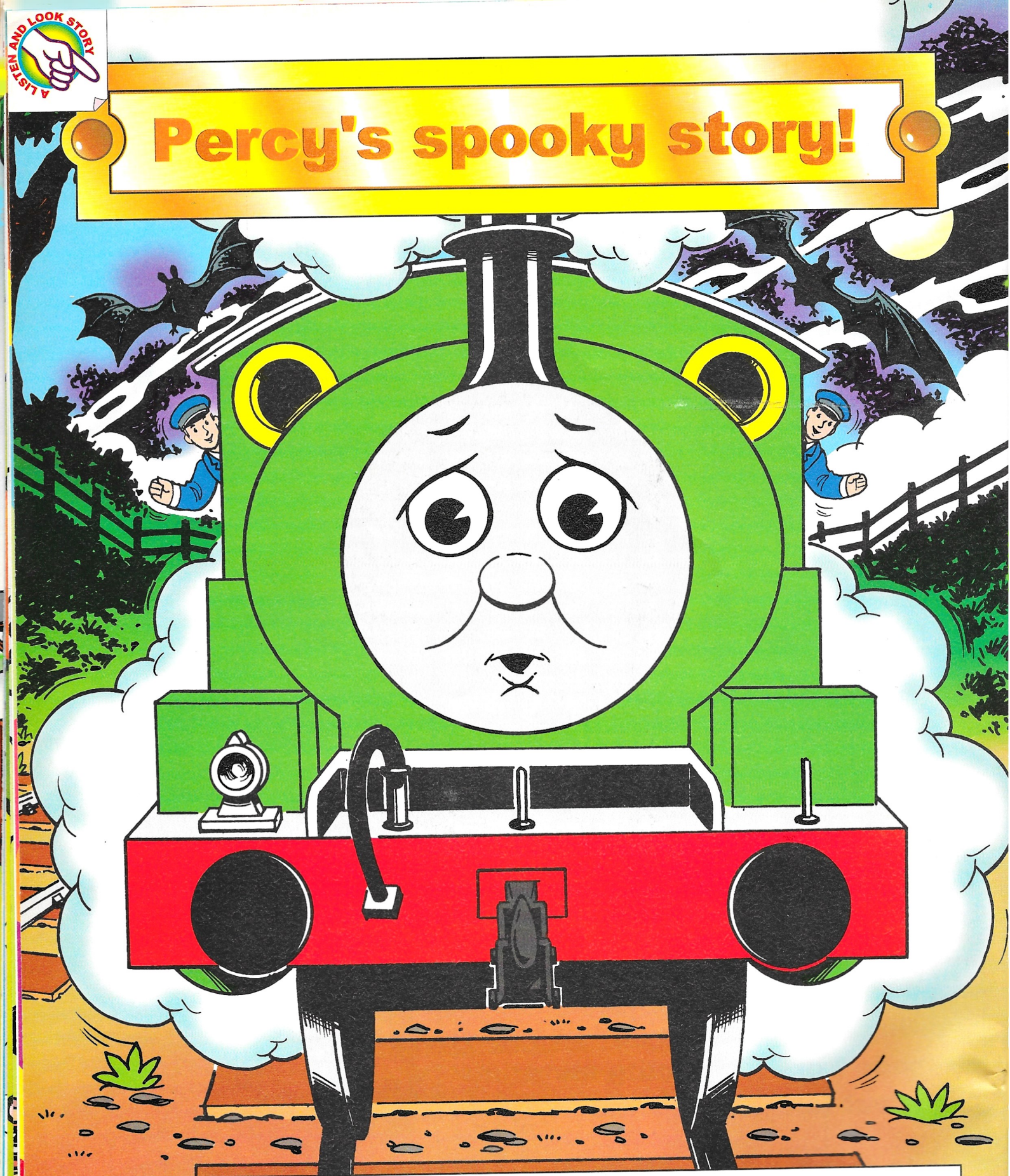


L.N.E.R. Train, faithfully reproduced in colours identical to the full-size engine (worth £6.25).

This competition is open to all readers other than employees of Marvel Comics Ltd., and BRIO. We cannot accept any responsibility for prizes lost or damaged in the post. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

LISTEN AND LOOK STORY

Percy's spooky story!

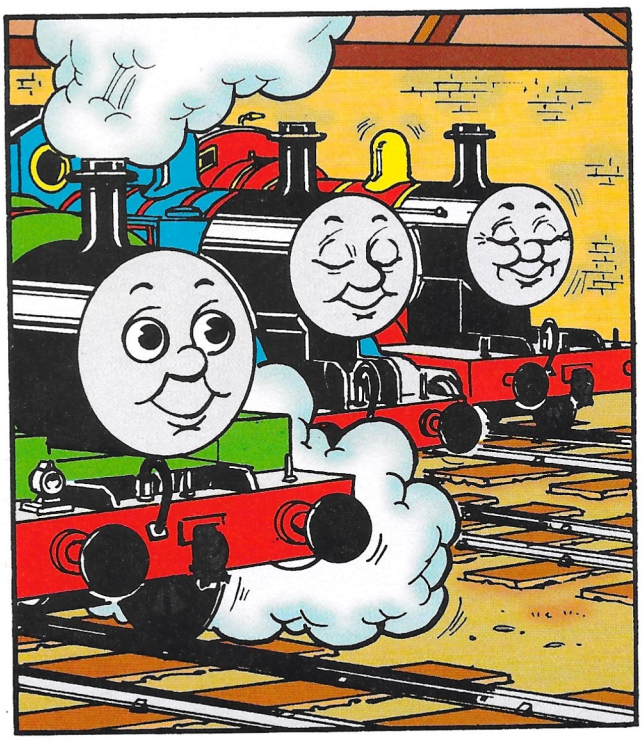


1. Percy had taken some trucks to the far side of the Island of Sodor. It was just starting to get dark as he puffed eagerly homewards.

2. The moon glowed. Percy began to wish he was safely in the engine shed. To make matters worse, he was on a line that was seldom used.

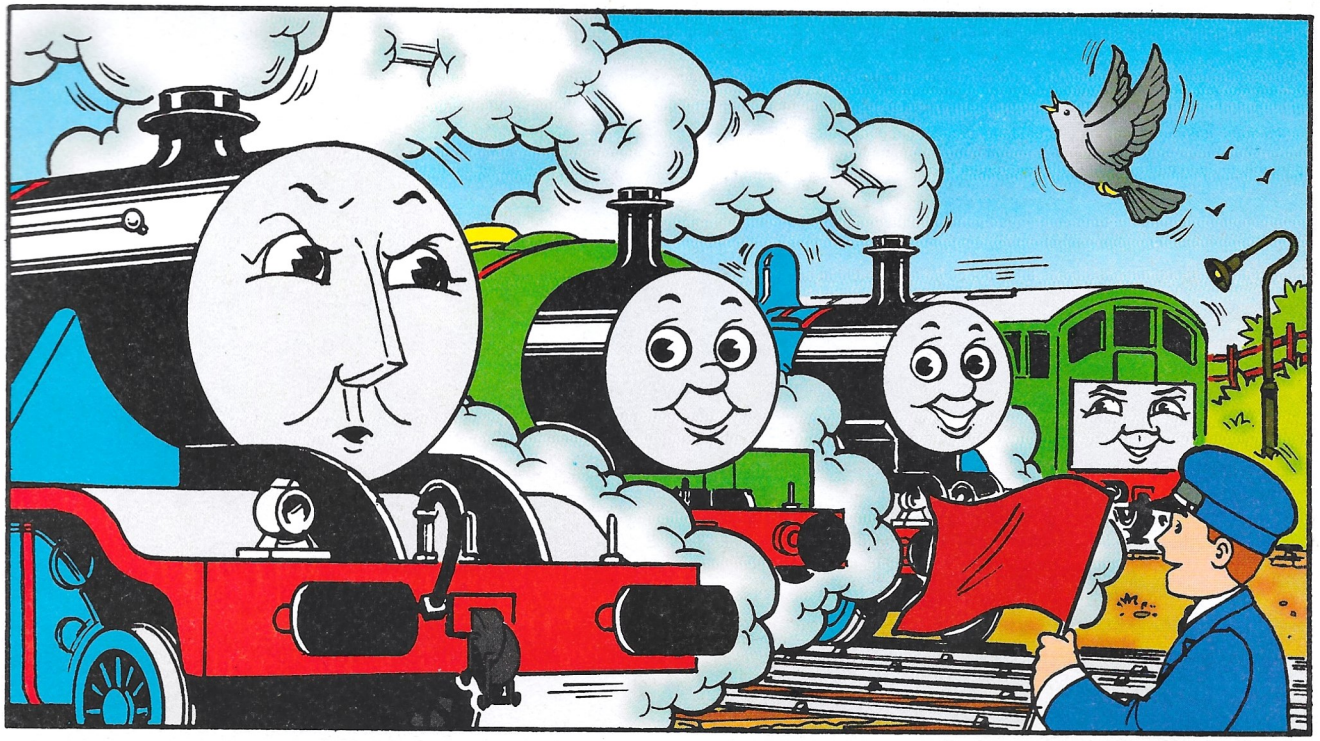
3. The line took Percy through some gloomy countryside. Then, as he steamed around a bend, he saw a huge, eerie ruin which made him shiver.

4. "What a creepy looking place!" gasped Percy. "It's only an old abbey," said his driver. "No-one's lived there for hundreds of years!"



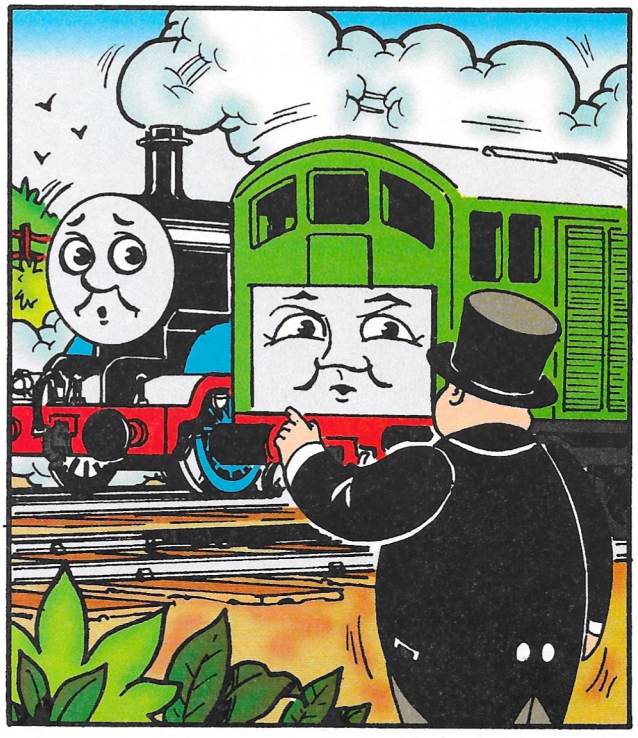
5. "I'm not surprised!" cried Percy, chuffing past. "Many years ago, monks lived there. They wore long, hooded gowns!" the driver said.

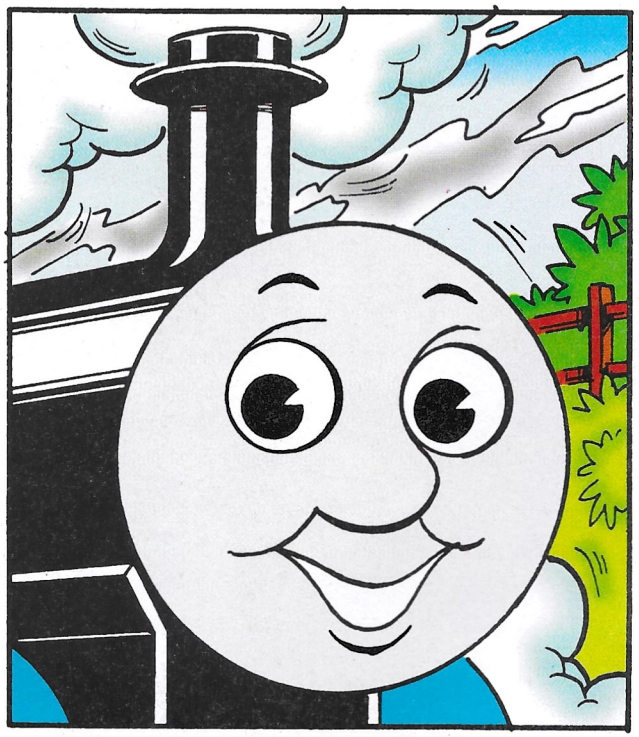
6. "I bet one still haunts the place," thought Percy. How pleased he was when he rolled into the shed next to the other engines.



7. Next morning, Percy told them all about the abbey. "It's haunted by a ghostly monk!" he teased. "I saw him!" "Rubbish!" snorted Gordon.

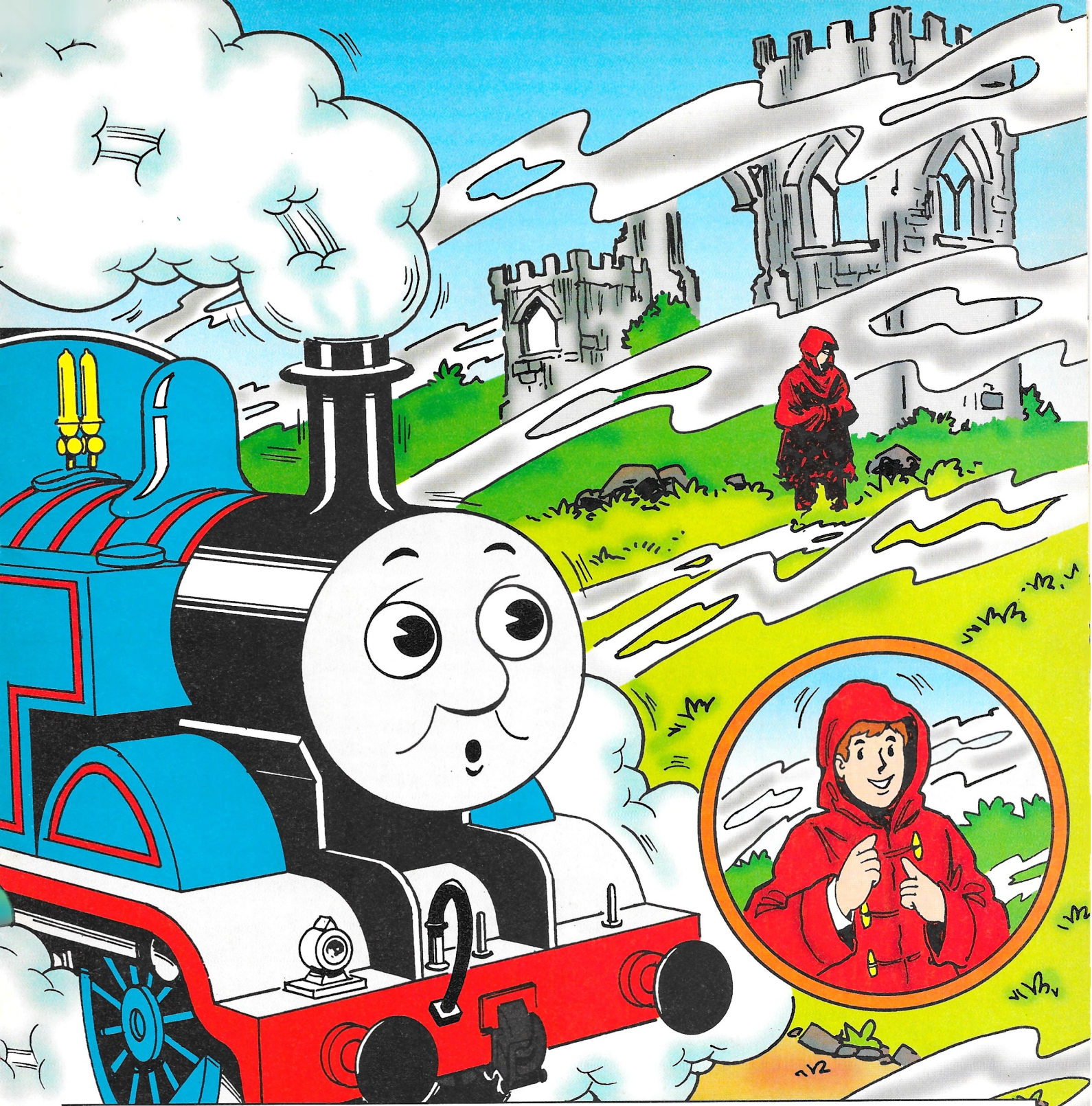
8. "You can't fool us, Percy!" laughed Thomas. "But the other engines were very glad they did not have to go near the abbey.





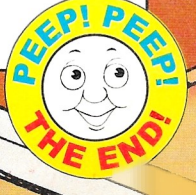
9. Then, one day, the Fat Controller told Thomas and Boco that the abbey was to be reopened, as a place of historical interest.

10. The two engines uneasily took materials to and fro as workmen made the ruin safe. At last, Thomas made the final delivery.



11. "So much for it being haunted!" he thought. "We haven't seen anything scary!" But this time it was foggy when Thomas reached the abbey. Suddenly, a hooded figure seemed to glide out of the ruin through the fog. "The ghostly monk!" cried Thomas.

12. How relieved he felt when he saw it was only a workman in a hooded coat. Back at the Main Station, Thomas told Percy about the spooky figure. Percy was shocked until Thomas explained. "That'll teach me to make up stories!" gasped Percy.



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